

SBA Grade 7 Proficiency Level Descriptors

Reading

Advanced Level

The student

- determines meaning of content-specific vocabulary and words with multiple meaning
- connects information within and across texts by making inferences and drawing conclusions
- compares and contrasts main ideas or concepts between related texts
- analyzes and evaluates the importance of plot, setting, character, point of view, and theme to a variety of texts

Proficient Level

The student

- uses context clues, knowledge of language structure and other resources to determine meaning of unfamiliar words
- identifies complex relationships among words including analogies
- makes inferences and draws conclusions across texts
- identifies and selects evidence to support the main ideas in various types of texts
- interprets complex directions to solve problems
- identifies literary elements and devices
- identifies the characteristics and the effect on the reader of fiction and nonfiction
- compares and contrasts plot, setting, and character in increasingly complex texts
- identifies author's purpose
- makes connections to the author's message or theme
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Below Proficient Level

The student

- uses word origins to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and identifies multiple synonyms of a word
- summarizes key details in correct sequence from both narrative and informative text
- makes connections between the main ideas and concepts in one passage to related topics and provides supporting details
- identifies author's message or theme
- makes connections to other texts

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.

Writing

Advanced Level

In the area of writing, the seventh grade student performing at the advanced level

- effectively and consistently writes a composition with a thesis statement and a clearly identified focus
- writes well-developed paragraphs that include specific details and strong evidence
- organizes ideas using appropriate structure and effective transitional words and phrases to maintain unity
- writes a conclusion that supports the thesis or summarizes the main idea
- shows mastery in using a variety of nonfiction forms to inform or describe

In the area of proofreading, the seventh grade student performing at the advanced level

- varies beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- applies rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the seventh grade student performing at the advanced level

- consistently revises by adding or rearranging details, eliminating irrelevant details, and using appropriate voice

Proficient Level

In the area of writing, the seventh grade student performing at the proficient level

- usually writes a composition with a thesis statement and focus
- writes well-developed paragraphs that include relevant details
- organizes ideas using appropriate structure and effective transitional words and phrases to maintain unity
- usually writes a conclusion that supports the thesis or summarizes the main idea
- uses a variety of nonfiction forms to inform or describe

In the area of proofreading, the seventh grade student performing at the proficient level

- varies the beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- applies most rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the seventh grade student performing at the proficient level

- usually revises by adding or rearranging details, eliminating irrelevant details, and using appropriate voice

Below Proficient Level

In the area of writing, the seventh grade student performing at the below proficient level

- writes a composition with a loosely defined thesis statement and uses paragraphs with an unclear focus and limited details
- demonstrates limited ability to organize ideas using appropriate structure and a variety of transitions to maintain unity
- fails to write a conclusion that supports the thesis or summarizes the main idea
- demonstrates limited ability to use a variety of nonfiction forms to inform or describe

In the area of proofreading, the seventh grade student performing at the below proficient level

- attempts to vary beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- applies some rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the seventh grade student performing at the below proficient level

- fails to revise by adding or rearranging details, eliminating irrelevant details, and using appropriate voice

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.

Mathematics

Advanced Level

The student displays a highly developed understanding of

- high-level concepts involving numbers, operational relationships, and complex number theory
- precise measurement techniques
- complicated problems involving elapsed time and equivalent measures
- sophisticated estimation strategies
- computation required to solve difficult problems
- multifaceted patterns
- challenging geometric relationships
- perimeter and area of complex shapes
- the representation and uses of data in multiple formats

Proficient Level

The student demonstrates conceptual understanding of

- rational numbers, mathematical operations, and number theory
- equivalent measures
- measurement techniques involving scale factors, elapsed time between time zones, and measuring with a ruler or protractor
- describing, extending, and generalizing patterns and functions
- estimation strategies and computation involving the four basic operations, conversion, and proportion
- modeling and solving equations
- evaluating expressions
- volume and surface area
- circumference
- geometric relationships of plane and solid figures
- using a coordinate grid
- classification, organization, and analysis of data
- probability
- problems involving sample spaces

Below Proficient Level

The student shows minimal understanding of

- concepts involving numbers, mathematical operations, number theory, basic equivalent measures, and elapsed time between time zones
- basic estimation skills
- measuring techniques with some precision
- solving simple problems involving arithmetic computation and conversion
- extending uncomplicated patterns
- simple geometric relationships
- rudimentary problems involving volume, surface area, and circumference
- the display and uses of straightforward sets of data

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.